

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 85
By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to recognize Vernon Osborne for his outstanding dedication and commitment to Alcoa High School.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, one such person is Vernon Osborne, who was born in Wallins Creek, Kentucky, and proudly served his country for three years during World War II as a pilot and bomber pilot instructor in the Army Air Corps; and

WHEREAS, a multi-sport star, Mr. Osborne earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Union College and continued his education at the College of William and Mary, where he received his Master of Arts degree while serving as Coach of the freshman basketball and baseball teams; and

WHEREAS, he came to Alcoa, Tennessee, in 1950 as the biology teacher and Head Coach of basketball and baseball at Alcoa High School; and

WHEREAS, during a thirty-nine year career at Alcoa High School, Mr. Osborne became one of the premiere high school boys basketball coaches in the country, his 869 career wins

placing him in the Top Ten for career victories among the nation's high school boys basketball coaches; and

WHEREAS, Coach Osborne led the Alcoa High School Tornadoes to two state championships in boys basketball, in 1959 and 1967, when there was no classification based on enrollment in Tennessee high school basketball competition, necessitating that the state championship team defeat the very best teams in the state to achieve that championship distinction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Osborne's Tornadoes were the state runner-up in 1965 and again, in Class A, in 1982; and

WHEREAS, his Alcoa High teams won 20 district titles and 12 regional championships, appeared in the state tournament 10 times, and played in four additional sub-state tournament games during his career; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Osborne has been credited with bringing defensive basketball to the forefront of the high school game in Tennessee with aggressive defensive schemes, his 1967 state championship team having been described by many coaches, reporters, and observers as the finest defensive high school team they had ever seen play; and

WHEREAS, for thirty-nine years, he set an example for coaches, players, and fans by his leadership, his ability always to maintain his composure on the basketball court, and his dedication to his players and to the game of basketball; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Osborne was also a dedicated teacher who loved his students and gave as much attention to preparation for his classes as he gave to his basketball teams, having dedicated his life to his students and players; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Osborne has been married to Margaret Ann Roberts Osborne for fifty-three years, and they are the parents of Bette Osborne Haile and Judy Osborne Davis, and the grandparents of Vernon Lea Davis, Martha Alice Davis, and Carrie Elizabeth Davis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Osborne has always been, and remains today, a man of exemplary character and high moral standards who has faithfully displayed, in his daily life, his Christian values; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Mr. Vernon Osborne for his stalwart dedication and commitment to the students and athletes of Alcoa High School, the Alcoa community, and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Vernon Osborne our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.